

President's Message.

President Grant's seventh annual Message was laid before the Congress yesterday. Its extreme length precludes its publication in our columns entire. Nor does the document possess anything of exciting interest. It is well written, dignified in tone, and in all things temperate in character.

The President sets out with a very interesting and comprehensive summary of the changes wrought in our condition within the century of our national existence, referring to our increase from 13 States to 35, and of population from three millions to forty millions; to the growth of our manufacturing products, which from almost nothing have risen to the vast sum of \$2,100,000,000 annually.

The Message recommends a Constitutional amendment making it the duty of the several States "to establish and forever maintain free public schools adequate to the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches, within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, birthplace or religion; forbidding the teaching in said schools of religious, atheistic or pagan, and prohibiting the granting of any school funds, or school taxes, or any part thereof, either by legislative, municipal, or others, for the benefit of any other object of any nature or kind whatever."

Attention is called to the consideration of the important question of taxing Church property. And the President very properly suggests the importance of correcting an evil, which, as he says, will probably lead to great trouble in our land before the close of the present century; and he proceeds to point out the rapid increase in the vast amounts of untaxed church property, saying:

"In 1850, I believe, the church property of the United States which paid no tax, municipal or State, amounted to about \$83,000,000. In 1860 the amount had doubled. In 1870 it is about \$1,000,000,000; by 1900, without check, it is safe to say this property will reach a sum exceeding \$3,000,000,000. So vast a sum, receiving all the protection and benefits of government without bearing its proportion of the burdens and expenses in the same, will not be looked upon acquiescently by those who have paid taxes."

The Message proceeds to suggest the taxation of all property equally, whether church or corporation, exempting only the last resting place of the dead.

Our foreign relations are represented as generally on a friendly footing; and Spain is particularly mentioned, in a kind and forbearing spirit. The indemnity in the case of the ship *Virginius* was promptly paid by the Spanish Government in full, and distribution thereof has been directed.

Concerning the Cuban rebellion the President speaks with very proper and positive terms of condemnation of the barbarism that has constantly characterized that conflict for seven years; through all which time, desolation, ruin, pillage and incendiarism have pervaded and laid waste the rich fields and towns of that productive region, destroying and endangering the property of peaceful American citizens residing there, and outraging all the laws of civilized warfare; and for the suppression of this all the efforts of Spain have thus far proved abortive. And yet terrible as the state of things continues to be, the President says:

"Applying to the existing condition of affairs in Cuba, the tests recognized by the publicists and writers on international law, and which have been observed by nations of dignity, honesty and power when free from sensitive, selfish or unworthy motives, I fail to find in the insurrection the existence of such substantial political organization, real, palpable and manifest to the world, having the forms and capable of the ordinary functions of Government toward its own people and to other States, with Courts for administration of justice, and with a local habitation possessing such an organization of force, such material, such occupation of territory, as to take the contest out of the category of a mere rebellious insurrection or occasional skirmishes and place it on the terrible footing of a war, to which a recognition of belligerency would add to elevate it." And he therefore regards the accordance of belligerent rights to be as yet unwise and premature. He however suggests that the time must speedily come, unless the insurrection be suppressed, when other nations must seriously consider the only remaining remedies, by mediation and intervention. The President affirms that in all her difficulties, the United States have performed all their obligations to Spain with perfect fairness and fidelity, and expresses the hope that all pending questions will meet with satisfactory adjustment.

On the subject of the depredations committed within our territory by bands of Mexicans from the "free zone" on our frontiers, the President gives utterance to some plain and positive intimations, which it would be wise for Mexico to consider with much care.

The matters referring to the Atlantic Cable concessions and the unfinished business of the Alabama Commission are suitably presented in general terms. The subject of fraudulent Naturalization as citizens of this country by persons who admit that they never actually resided within the United States, and yet claim protection of American citizenship while residing abroad, is presented in the Message with much force and propriety, and suggesting appropriate legislation for the prevention of such frauds upon the records of this country.

Concerning the reports of the heads

of departments, the Message submits their statistics and suggestions without much supplementary argumentation. He more especially assures Congress that it will afford him great gratification to approve any measure of Congress looking effectively toward securing redemption of specie payments.

As a summary of his present views the President concludes his Message thus:

"As this will be the last annual message which shall have the honor of transmitting to Congress before my successor is chosen, I will repeat, or recapitulate, the questions which I deem of vital importance, which should be legislated upon and settled at this session:

First—That the States shall be required to afford the opportunity of a good common school education to every child within their limits.

Second—That no pecuniary taxes shall be ever levied in any State, or in any part of the State, or by the proceeds of any tax levied upon any community, to make education compulsory so far as to deprive all persons who can not read and write from becoming voters after the year 1890, disfranchising none, however, on grounds of illiteracy who may be voters at the time this amendment takes effect.

Third—Declare church and State forever separate and distinct, but each free within their proper sphere, and that all church property shall bear its own proportion of taxes.

Fourth—Drive out licentious immorality, such as polygamy and the importation of women for illicit purposes.

As to our aim to the centennial year, it would seem as though now, as we are about to begin the second century of our National existence, would be a most fitting time for these reforms.

Fifth—Enact such laws as will secure a speedy return to a sound currency, such as will command the respect of the world.

Believing that these views will commend themselves to the great majority of the right-thinking and patriotic citizens of the United States, I submit them to Congress.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 3, 1875.

The Present Congress.

Eighty-eight years having elapsed since the organization of the Government under the Constitution, the present is, of course, the 44th Congress. The whole number of members to constitute the full Congress are 74 Senators, 292 Representatives, and 9 Territorial Delegates in the House, in all 575 persons.

The elections, every two years, for Congressmen must necessarily bring some new members, on each occasion, into the House. But the tidal wave of Democratic success in 1874, sent into the present Congress an unusually large proportion of new men. Of the 360 members only 140 have ever served in Congress before, and the remaining 220 are strangers to the Capitol.

Classified politically, there are in the Senate, 42 Republicans and 26 Democrats, 2 Independents (whatever that may be), and one seat vacant. This gives the Republicans a solid working majority of 11 in the Senate. In the last Congress their majority was 21. In the House there is a little greater mixture; there being 177 Democrats, 101 Republicans, 5 Liberal Republicans, 4 Independent Republicans, and 4 Independent Reformers (whatever that may be), thus giving a solid majority of 63 for the Democrats in the House.

Twenty-eight of the new members were Secessionists; and all but two served in the Confederate armies. Of the 176 new men 122 are lawyers, 31 merchants, 6 farmers, 4 doctors, 3 bankers, and only 2 editors. The youngest member is only 29, and the oldest is over 70. Two or three of the colored members from the South have learned to read and write since the war. All but 7 of the new members are natives of the United States. Of the seven foreign born, 3 are Irish, 2 Canadian, 1 German, and 1 Englishman.

To bring together a body of men of such numbers, from regions so remote from each other and possessing interests so diverse, of ideas and sentiments so widely differing, with no previous knowledge of each other, and expect them to work together harmoniously on public questions, is looking for more than can be realized. Yet it need not follow that, because there is friction there must be actual discord. There must be concessions from all sides. And this is the chief reliance of the country for securing wisdom and impartiality in legislation.

A Bear-Boy.

[St. Louis Republican.]

They say they have the most curious being ever born of a woman in the Flint Poor-house, Genesee county, Michigan. It is a male, twenty years of age, with the head and habits of a bear, but without that creature's general sense and instincts.

The natural history of the nondescript is that his mother, an unlucky creature, went to a circus and menagerie in Genesee county and was frightened by a huge Polar bear in the collection of animals. The bear's head and the bear's habits and dumbness of the creature constitute a birthmark.

The nondescript never chews his food, and never knows when to stop eating. It is chained to the floor of a cell in the institution, and spends its time in swaying its body to and fro, like an unhappy bear in a cage. Once it broke loose from its fastenings and fled to the woods. It was discovered in a high tree top.

The descent was waited for and it was again secured to its everlasting chain. If such a thing exists as this bear-boy, common humanity should have dictated leaving it to the tree, to the tender mercies of him who made it and taught it to climb like a bear, and at the same time implanted in it the mystery of a soul, for the creature was human born.

Common field hands in Mississippi are now earning from \$1.50 to \$3 a day picking cotton, steamboat laborers \$50 per month, and skilled artisans proportionately higher prices. And still they are not happy!

American photographers find a large sale in London as account of their superiority over English photographers, which is due to the clearness of the American climate. Italian photographers are equally superior to English; for the same reason.

MY WINDOW ROMANCE.

[For the Cincinnati Star.]

MY DREAMY DREAM.

"Here," she laughed back. "No fresh ones, that is. The same 'raz-bob' sent another bundle, though, and in it a summer coat to mended. You don't mind my telling you these trifles. I thought they'd amuse you, you see. Well, from that coat pocket there dropped a photograph of an, such a lovely, lovely lady, and—"

"It does amuse me," said I, hastily interrupting, with visions of Jack's sister Madge, and my fourth cousin, Beatrice, and even Lady Di (whose several photographs were in my possession) came trooping up like so many pretty teasing ghosts. "Let me see the doubly beautiful picture?"

"Not now, I beg you," I excused me, for I'm so hurried and Nance will want more starch made. Adieu, for a moment."

I guess I dropped off in a doze; for I'm sure of dreaming that some one called me and that I was too sleepy to answer. And then I had dreams of a velvet and champagne toast stood for wooden legs. And the minutes chased the hours, and the sun was almost gone down behind the distant chimney-pots before I awoke. There on the ledge, close beside my elbow, stood a quaint old vase of Wedgwood ware filled to overflowing with bright flowers. I mean of the garden. How came it there? Jack, of course; and my delight in the sweet offering was somewhat marred at thought that I was not to keep my secret after all. But Jack denied the charge stoutly, looking so really astonished that I, perforce, believed him, and held him blameless when, in looking out of the window, he turned over and grabbed the end of something that proved to be a ladder. He wondered, of course; but he wondered no more than I. Had my little waif climbed like a lady-knight to leave her blossoms there?

Jack tossed me the Times, which I was too indolent to look at, and sat down, opposite me, with a meditative air. I let my eyes rest on his strong, bronzed lineaments, chiefly because he was in my direct line of vision, and furthermore because I loved him, and was both proud and glad to have such a friend as he had shown himself to be. Why, didn't he take a party of fellows go yachting off the States? I was so sure that he might stay in my party, my protestations, and nurse me? And weren't they a party that reckoned without their host, since the yacht was his own? Dear old Jack! how killingly handsome he was as he sat there before me looking more like a statue cast in bronze than anything else I could think of. I was so sure that he might stay in my party, my protestations, and nurse me? And weren't they a party that reckoned without their host, since the yacht was his own? 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